

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-9 and 13-16 are pending herein. Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 4, 5, 12 and 17, which have been cancelled hereby. Claims 1, 3, 6, 10 and 11 have also been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7-9 have been amended to address dependency. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment is proper under Rule 1.116, and thus should be entered, because it does not introduce any new issues for the Examiner to consider, as the Examiner has already considered all of the features now recited in claim 13. Moreover, the amendment to claim 13 places claim 13, and all claims depending therefrom, in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 3-17 were rejected under §102(b) over Kobayashi; and claims 1 and 3-17 were rejected under §103(a) over Kobayashi in view of either Tone or Tajima. To the extent that these rejections may be applied against amended claim 13, they are respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 has been amended to clarify that the intermediate transfer medium comprises one of an adhesive layer-receptive layer, a self-adhesive layer and a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, on which the hologram transfer layer is provided. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the thermal base transfer sheet of the present invention ensures that two types of hologram layers of a volume hologram layer and an additional emboss hologram layer are now effectively present in the intermediate transfer medium of the base sheet. Therefore, these specific multiple and interactive hologram layers now prevent and deter the forgery, or unauthorized misuse

of products that can be mass-produced using the thermal transfer sheet of the present invention. Moreover, the synergistic effect of this steric configuration of the two types of hologram layers along with the emboss hologram layer significantly improves the tamper resistance and security of the thermal transfer sheet in an effective and low-cost manner when compared to prior art transfer sheets (see page 11, paragraph [0039] of the specification).

Neither the claimed invention nor the attendant advantages thereof would have been disclosed or obvious to one skilled in the art based on the applied references.

Kobayashi discloses an intermediate transfer medium that comprises a base material film and a transfer part that is releasably provided on the base material film containing different hologram patterns formed on the transfer part. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Kobayashi of a thermal base transfer sheet that comprises a hologram layer, an emboss hologram layer and an intermediate transfer medium comprising an adhesive layer-receptive layer, a self-adhesive layer or a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer on which the hologram transfer layer is provided, as presently claimed. As such, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Kobayashi regarding a transfer sheet that comprises the combination of two types of hologram layers in a hologram transfer layer and an emboss hologram layer in the intermediate transfer medium that provides a synergistic effect of the specific multiple hologram layers that effectively prevents the tampering and forgery of an efficiently mass-produced thermal transfer sheet, as in the case of the present invention.

Tone discloses a hologram transfer foil where a protective layer, a hologram layer and a seal layer are laminated to a base material. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Tone regarding a hologram layer, emboss hologram layer and a hologram transfer layer that is provided in the intermediate transfer medium, as now claimed. As such, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Tone on how to provide a significantly secure set of synergistic hologram layers, as in the case of the present invention. Therefore, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Tone regarding the combination of two types of hologram layers and an additional emboss hologram layer that can effectively remove or prevent the forgery or tampering of a thermal transfer sheet, as in the case of the present invention.

Tajima fails to disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention for reasons similar to those explained above with respect to Tone. Tajima discloses a light diffracting transfer sheet where a light reflective layer, an adhesive layer and a release layer are formed on the under side of a base sheet. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Tajima regarding a transfer sheet comprising two types of hologram layers in a volume hologram layer and an emboss hologram layer of a thermal transfer sheet. Moreover, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Tajima, as in Tone, regarding the use and/or benefits provided by such an interactive series of hologram layers of the thermal transfer sheet for security measures and purposes, as in the case of the present invention. As such, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Tajima regarding a hologram layer, an emboss hologram layer and a hologram transfer layer provided in the intermediate transfer medium, as now claimed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the arguments presented above distinguish amended claim 13 from Kobayashi, Tone and Tajima, and that the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest each and every element now recited in claim 13.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 and claims 7-9 and 14-16 that depend directly from claim 13, define patentable subject matter over the applied references, and respectfully request that the above rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending herein are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance in due course.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

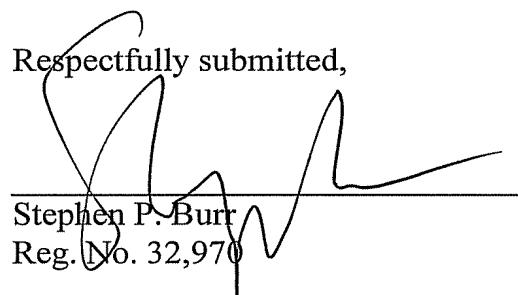
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

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Date

SPB/JZ/cmb

BURR & BROWN
P.O. Box 7068
Syracuse, NY 13261-7068

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen P. Burr
Reg. No. 32,970

Customer No.: 025191
Telephone: (315) 233-8300
Facsimile: (315) 233-8320